Exhibit A

Chron
http://www.chron.com/news/texas/article/Corpus-Christi-faces-regulatory-review-over-water-8345423.php

Corpus Christi faces regulatory review over water issues

Published 8:25 am, Thursday, July 7, 2016

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — State environmental regulators found at least eight violations in the Corpus Christi drinking water system following two boil-supply notices during 2015.

The **Corpus Christi Caller-Times** (**http://bit.ly/29wU8ev**) reported Wednesday that official reviews continue of the May boil-water advisory that lasted nearly two weeks. All three boil-water notices involved chlorine issues.

Records show the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality** has proposed compliance improvements costing more than $503,000, plus $6,000 in penalties — both from the 2015 incidents.

Details are in more than 1,000 pages of communications between the TCEQ and Corpus Christi that were released to the newspaper.

City spokeswoman **Kim Womack** says the corrective requirements and penalties, provided to the city in April, are being negotiated. Womack had no timetable on when the discussions would conclude.

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Information from: Corpus Christi Caller-Times, **http://www.caller.com**

Exhibit B

Chron
http://www.chron.com/news/texas/article/Texas-prison-system-to-appeal-water-supply-8317927.php

Judge: Texas prison's water violates 'standards of decency'

Juan A. Lozano, Associated Press Updated 5:27 pm, Wednesday, June 22, 2016

HOUSTON (AP) — A group of prisoners alleging they have to drink arsenic-laden water to stay cool inside their hot Texas lockup won a legal victory Tuesday in an ongoing lawsuit after a federal judge ordered the Texas prison system to provide safe drinking water that doesn't violate "contemporary standards of decency."

U.S. District Judge **Keith Ellison** has given the prison system 15 days to replace the water supply at the Wallace Pack Unit in Navasota, located about 70 miles northwest of Houston.

The judge's order came in a lawsuit the inmates filed in 2014 in Houston federal court alleging they're being exposed to dangerous heat at the unit. The lawsuit alleges Texas houses inmates in conditions that are inhumane enough to violate the U.S. Constitution's protections against cruel and unusual punishment. The Pack Unit is a low security geriatric facility that houses about 1,400 inmates, many of whom are sick or disabled.

In his 15-page ruling, Ellison wrote the **Texas Department of Criminal Justice** has been "deliberately indifferent" to the ongoing risk inmates at the unit face from prolonged exposure to "extreme heat" and from having to drink arsenic-laden water in order to reduce the risk from the heat. The drinking water at the Pack Unit has contained between 2 and 4½ times the amount of arsenic permitted by the Environmental Protection Agency, the judge said.

The prisoners have "demonstrated that (the prison system's) current and ongoing conduct violates contemporary standards of decency," Ellison wrote.

At least 20 prisoners have died indoors in non-air-conditioned Texas prisons from overheating since 1998, including 10 who died in 2011, Ellison said.

Jason Clark, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said the agency plans to appeal the ruling.

"The water at the Pack Unit is safe to drink according to the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality** and the Texas **Department of State Health Services**," he said in a statement. "Although this is not an emergency and the water is safe to drink, we have

a statement. "Although this is not an emergency and the water is safe to drink, we have designed a new filtration system which has been approved by TCEQ, and the final installation is expected in early 2017."

In his ruling, Ellison highlighted that the current water filtration system was installed in 2007 in response to the EPA a year earlier lowering maximum levels of arsenic in drinking water and that the prison system has had trouble with the filtration system for years.

Jeff Edwards, one of the attorneys for the inmates, said the prison system has known about the unsafe arsenic levels in the Pack Unit's water since 2006 but has not fixed the problem "and that's not acceptable."

"When you take away people's liberty, you have to provide certain protections," he said. "Some people may have the mentality that if you've committed a crime, you lose all your rights. That is simply not the case. You do not give up your constitutional right not to be treated cruelly."

In court filings, some of the inmates have discussed living conditions at the Pack Unit.

"I sometimes feel like I'm about to die of thirst even when I am constantly drinking water," said **Jackie Brannum**, who has been at the unit since 2001 and is serving a sentence for aggravated sexual assault. "All I can think of is cooling down somehow."

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Follow **Juan A. Lozano** on Twitter at **www.twitter.com/juanlozano70**

Exhibit C

Report: EPA needs better drinking water oversight

Caitlin McGlade, The Republic | azcentral.com 4:53 p.m. MST March 28, 2016

The majority of water systems that seriously violated drinking water rules in 2011 had not come back into compliance by last year, the Inspector General finds.

The Environmental Protection Agency has not done enough to ensure that all Americans have clean drinking water, according to a federal report released Tuesday.

The majority of water systems with serious violations of drinking water rules in 2011 had not come back into compliance by last year. Case studies across three regions revealed that human health risks may continue in some small community water systems, according to the report published by the U.S. EPA's Office of Inspector General.

In Arizona, just three of 12 water utilities that received violations in 2011 had resolved their problems by April 2015. The 12 systems serve almost 5,000 people, according to the report.

The report did not name the Arizona water providers in question, and a spokesman for the Inspector General would not send *The Republic* the names upon request.

"Since the 12 Arizona systems were not vetted through our reporting process, we recommend you contact ADEQ or EPA Region 9 for further information on the status of serious violators within the state," spokesman Jeffrey Lagda said in an email.

He was unable to say what that meant by press time.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality did not have the names of the providers as of press time, as staff had just seen the report and said they needed time to review it before commenting.

Serious violations are the type that could spell immediate health dangers and require systems to notify their customers within 24 hours. They could include failure to maintain microbial treatment, exceeding standards for fecal coliform, not testing for contamination after finding coliform, exceeding standards for nitrate or not testing for nitrate.

Almost 200 small water providers across the U.S. and its territories committed the serious violations, labeled Tier 1 by the EPA, in 2011. Many serve populations that still lack safe drinking water, according to the report.

The systems examined by the report by definition serve 3,300 or fewer customers, and are less likely than larger systems to have the capacity to monitor for contaminants or fix problems. Challenges for these utilities include adapting to new standards, upgrading infrastructure, protecting source water and fighting budgetary constraints, according to the report.

The Inspector General's report recommended to the EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance that it increase oversight of all EPA regions and coordinate work across agency offices to explore barriers that keep water systems from gaining compliance.

The EPA said a work group is determining best practices to bring small water providers into compliance. The agency also said it also has made progress in finding non-compliance problems that pose serious health risks and ensuring violations are fixed in a timely fashion. The OIG report likewise says the agency's efforts have "shown some improvement over time."

Since 2010, the number of public water systems deemed serious violators has dropped by 75 percent, according to an EPA statement.

Exhibit D

Chron
http://www.ourmidland.com/opinion/editorials/article/Our-view-What-do-you-know-about-Midland-s-water-6898807.php

Our view: What do you know about Midland's water quality?

By the Midland Daily News Updated 4:15 pm, Monday, March 21, 2016

Are you feeling reassured about your water in Midland?

A recently published article traced the 65-mile journey your water takes, from an intake in Lake Huron to the homes of city and township residents in Midland and Midland County.

Water Superintendent Peter Schwarz told the Daily News he has not received many questions about the quality of the roughly 48 million gallons of water Midland receives on a daily basis.

That leaves us wondering; is receiving little to no citizen engagement a good or bad thing?

We are curious if residents knew much of the information included in the article, like how to access water quality reports and how Midland's water supply compares to other communities.

With the dramatic situation unfolding in Flint, this is a good time to know the answers to these questions. Like Schwarz said, people get nervous when talking about their water system.

He encourages people to first look at drinking water quality reports, published annually, and see if there are any violations among the regulated parameters, and then “delve in further” to the different levels and goals set for each substance.

“People should understand where their water is coming from,” Schwarz said.

If you haven't read the article, visit **http://bit.ly/1KwCtkN.** There is a gallery of pictures so readers can visualize different areas of the Water Treatment Plant and follow along the process of cleaning and preparing the water.

It is an impressive system and worthy of a closer look by all who take advantage of this service.

We can be thankful for city officials in the 1950s, who searched far and wide for a quality source of water that would attract residents and businesses to Midland. Their achievement has resulted in a water system the community can continue to be proud of

achievement has resulted in a water system the community can continue to be proud of over the decades.

“We're lucky we have a great water source from such a large body of water," Schwarz correctly noted.

Exhibit E

The New York Times | http://nyti.ms/1KTgzs2

The Opinion Pages | LETTER

Our Poor Water Quality

FEB. 16, 2016

To the Editor:

America's infrastructure and environmental regulations are failing us, particularly when it comes to our water. The crisis in Flint, Mich., has captured the country's attention, but as you recently pointed out, it is not just Flint and it is not just lead ("Holes in Safety Net Let Contaminants in Water," front page, Feb. 9).

In fact, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, agricultural pollution contributes to poor water quality in more than 100,000 miles of rivers and streams in the United States. And we've seen what corporate agriculture can do to our drinking water as well. In 2014, 500,000 people in Toledo, Ohio, were left without access to clean drinking water.

This is not something we can afford to let slip from the headlines. Clean water is vital to every aspect of our lives, yet the regulations and funding necessary to protect it continuously fall short. It is time we demanded a more responsible system that will put people and the planet before profits.

BRITTANY KING

Campaign Organizer

Environment Illinois

Chicago

A version of this letter appears in print on February 16, 2016, on page A18 of the New York edition with the headline: Our Poor Water Quality.

Exhibit F

The Scoop Blog

In light of Flint, Mich., water worries, how does Dallas area supply stack up?

Michael E. Young

Published: January 21, 2016 12:21 pm

Facebook Twitter Email

11 Comments Print

With the horrific news coming out of Flint, Mich. — particularly lead levels in drinking water high enough to cause permanent damage to small children who drank it — it's natural to wonder what's in the water in Dallas-Fort Worth.

Truthfully, the list of things found in minute amounts can be eye-opening — arsenic, cyanide, asbestos, mercury — but the quantities are so low and often naturally occurring that the Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the various regional water utilities agree that the water is just fine to drink.

The water utilities in North Texas carefully monitor

Archives

Select Month

About this Blog

Local News columnists, reporters and editors invite you to join the discussion of the hot topics of the day. We encourage thoughtful reader contributions on any interesting subject in the news.

the quality of raw water supplies, and continuously sample water through the treatment process.

The North Texas Municipal Water District's laboratories process a quarter-million water samples a day — everything from creek water that ultimately feeds into a district reservoir to the final product after the water has gone through multiple stages of processing and a final zap of ozone to further treat it.

Its laboratory includes a mass spectrometer with an intense blue flame that breaks the water sample down to its basic atomic structure and tests for heavy metals in the water, including lead and copper.

Flint, an aging industrial city, changed its water source several years ago, opting to stop buying water from nearby Detroit and instead tapping the Flint River as a source that could save the cash-strapped town $1 million to $2 million a year.

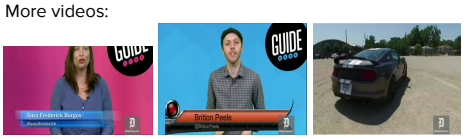
But much of Flint is aging, and lead water pipes are fairly common. And the water from the Flint River is corrosive, leaching lead from the pipes and putting it into the drinking water supply.

There are no such problems in the Dallas region, environmental officials and the area water utilities say.

"Flint has a plethora of problems — high trihalomethanes, a change in their water source that was highly corrosive, and that didn't mix well with their system," said Randy Payton, assistant director of water delivery for Dallas Water Utilities.

Video

More videos:



General News Stories

On Arabic social media, Dallas becomes part of a bigger debate over terrorism

Dallas chief after sniper attack: 'We don't feel much support most days. Let's not make today most days.'

Family of slain Louisiana man denounces Dallas police deaths

"I can't say those are issues for us."

Still, Dallas and other water providers use corrosion inhibitors to prevent metal leaching from pipes, and they use pipes lined with cement.

"We do not have any lead service lines," Payton said.

The EPA has what utilities call "the lead and copper rule," which severely limits the amount of lead allowable in drinking water to 0.015 milligrams per liter of water, and 1.3 milligrams of copper per liter. The water samples to measure lead and copper levels are taken from residents' homes.

"Lead isn't in the water per se," said Ted Kilpatrick, water system manager for the North Texas Municipal Water District. "The concern is the piping, in the distribution system and particularly in older homes. If those have lead-based piping or lead-based solder, those can leach lead into the water.

"They've long since been outlawed," Kilpatrick said, "but there are older homes that might still have them."

Utilities control pH levels in the water supply to make sure the water isn't acidic, which can be corrosive, Kilpatrick said.

"If you keep the pH higher, you can avoid leaching lead or copper from the piping," he said. "It coats the inside of the pipe and insulates it."

The region's water utilities provide annual water quality reports on their websites, and some,

including the NTMWD, post monthly reports as well. Cities that obtain water from regional utilities, including Plano and Arlington, provide their own water quality reports. Those detail the levels of various chemicals and other substances in the water supply, along with the EPA's acceptable levels for those substances, or state limits if those are even stricter.

If you live in Dallas, you can find the latest report **here**.

For customers of the North Texas Municipal Water District, **click here**.

Customers of the Upper Trinity Regional Water District can find the latest annual report **here**.

Several commercial websites for water filters, including **zerowater.com**, provide data on total dissolved solids in drinking water by zip code. The EPA's maximum acceptable level is 500 milligrams per liter and levels vary considerably. A zip code in downtown Dallas had 189 milligrams per liter; an area in southern Collin County reported 459 milligrams per liter, and a neighborhood in southeastern Denton County stood at 64.

Twitter: mikeyoungDMN

Exhibit G

NATION / NATION

Natural gas production contaminated drinking water in Texas, study finds

By **Neela Banerjee**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014, 6:57 PM | REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

Natural gas production contaminated the well water of two homes in a Texas subdivision, according to a study published Monday.

The discovery came two years after the Environmental Protection Agency halted its investigation in the Parker County community over concern about costs and legal risks.

In the new study, scientists were trying to determine the origins of high methane levels in drinking water aquifers near gas wells in Pennsylvania and Texas. They found that water in the two homes had changed over nine months, going from containing trace amounts of methane to containing high levels.

The newly identified cases "caught this contamination in the act," said Robert Jackson, a study coauthor and professor of environmental science at Stanford University.

The discovery challenges a long-standing assertion by the oil and gas industry that the U.S. energy boom has not damaged water supplies.

Other studies have found that water wells near natural gas production are more likely to contain methane. But the industry has contended that the methane found in water wells is naturally occurring and was there all along, before gas production began.

Each of 20 homes tested in Parker County has detectable methane in its well water because of many layers of oil and gas in the ground, the scientists said. Methane that enters homes through drinking water can pose an explosion risk if it accumulates in rooms or other spaces.

Two homes with water containing negligible amounts of methane in 2012 were tested again in August and November 2013, and showed far higher levels, the study said.

Further, the methane in the homes' water no longer contained the chemical makeup of the naturally occurring trace gas, the study found. Instead, it had the same chemical fingerprint as natural gas deposits far below the aquifer.

“All the gas chemistry in the water changed so that it wasn’t just higher methane levels but higher methane from a totally different source,” said Thomas Darrah, assistant professor of earth sciences at Ohio State University and the study’s lead author.

Darrah and his colleagues concluded that the contamination occurred when natural gas from a lower geological depth migrated higher into drinking water sources because of a faulty cement job around the well. That allowed methane to leak into aquifers.

“The good news is that most of the issues we have identified can potentially be avoided by future improvements in well integrity,” Darrah said.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, spotlights the EPA’s controversial decision in 2012 to halt its investigation into possible well-water contamination in Parker County by the energy company Range Resources.

The EPA had gotten involved in 2010 because Range Resources and Texas regulators failed to act immediately on homeowners’ complaints of possible drinking water contamination, according to a 2013 report by the EPA inspector general. When the EPA conducted its own tests of well water in some Parker County homes, it found methane levels in the water of two homes that were high enough to pose an explosion risk, the report said.

The Justice Department filed a complaint on behalf of the EPA against Range in January 2011, but withdrew it by March 2012. The EPA and the Justice Department reversed course because the EPA was worried about the costs and legal risks of the case, the inspector general's report said.

Texas authorities and Range Resources deny that the company’s gas development contaminated the water.

Matt Pitzarella, a spokesman for Range Resources, said company experts had not yet read the study. He cited previous tests by the company and Texas officials that “prove that the two Range wells could not have been the source of the gas in any water wells, nor did any other aspects of our work.”

The two Parker County homes that showed new contamination are near wells Range drilled in 2009 and sold in 2011 to Legend Natural Gas.

The new contamination was identified as part of a wider study that tested drinking water in 20 wells in Texas’ Barnett Shale area and 113 wells in Pennsylvania’s Marcellus Shale area.

In Texas, extremely high levels of methane were found in five homes, including the two whose contamination the researchers captured. In Pennsylvania, high levels of methane were found in 20 homes.

At least one house in Pennsylvania had a high level of methane that was there all along, unrelated to gas production. But for the other homes in both states, the chemical fingerprint of the methane at high levels in drinking water was the same as natural gas in deeper formations, the study said.

Responsibility for following up on the findings rests with Texas authorities, said Liz Purchia, an EPA spokeswoman, adding that the EPA is providing scientific assistance.

UPDATE

6:57 p.m.: The story was updated throughout with new details.

10:06 a.m.: The post was updated with a comment from Range Resources.

The story was orignially posted at 9:23 a.m.

This article is related to: Environmental Science, Scientific Research, Conservation, Energy Resources, U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental Politics